



Communications Board
Fire and Emergency Medical Services
Monroe County, New York

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Laurence Vaughan
Chairman

MINUTES OF MEETING: November 18, 2004

VOTING MEMBERS: Patty Bietry, Bill Gillette, Steve McClary, Brian Peartree, Larry Vaughan, Tim Warth and Richard Zwaga

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Mike Catalano (for Tom Coyle), Tim Czapranski, Tom Link, Mike Lissow, Ed Mager, Larry Mancine, Dave Pierce, Ed Riley, Rich Verdouw and Hank Wehner

OTHERS ATTENDING: John Cassin

EXCUSED: Dick Barrett, Steve Bowman, Diana Pfersick and Dave Timmons

ABSENT: Jack DeLisio, John Merklinger and Scott Miller

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Vaughan at 5:00 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was not present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the October meeting had to be tabled until next month since a quorum of voting members were not present.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communication issues that needed to be addressed at this meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reframing Committee – No report.

Digital Paging Committee – Rich Verdouw informed us that effective immediately, our meeting minutes will be made available on the County website. He and Steve Bowman will be meeting with representatives from TGA of Atlanta on December 1st to discuss different pager options. The price range will be approximately between \$157.00 and \$185.00 each, with a minimum order of 5,000 required. Out of the 5 surrounding counties, Wayne County is the only county who does not wish to join us in this venture at this time.

Communications Rules & Regulations Committee – Hank Wehner and Diana Pfersick will be meeting soon to discuss the addition of color codes to the handbook they are working on together. A report should be forthcoming at our next meeting in December.

OLD BUSINESS

Ed Riley reported that the progress of the narrow banding for all fire and EMS agencies in order to meet the January 2006 deadline continues. Only 8 Monroe County agencies remain and it appears positive. Also, Ed has sent a letter to all five surrounding County Fire Coordinators (Wayne, Ontario, Livingston, Genesee and Orleans) asking to identify the agencies in those counties that may be effective by our change to narrow banding. Rich Verdouw and Ed will then work with those agencies to provide information to them of the project and to determine how we can work with them to meet compliance by January 2006.

NEW BUSINESS

BATTALION REPORTS

Battalion 1 - No report.

Battalion 2 – (See attached report from Larry Vaughan and Dave Timmons.)

Battalion 3 – No report.

Battalion 4 – No report.

Battalion 5 – Patty Bietry reported two concerns regarding their battalion. The first involves the use of EMS Channel 295. If there is a call in another county, who is responsible for the narrowband transition? The second concern addresses the question of compliance with the January 2006 changeover. Ed Riley commented he had discussed the same concern with the other surrounding counties.

911 DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Cassin reported for John Merklinger. A fire alarm activated and smoke was in the electrical room at 911 on Saturday 11/13/04. The RFD responded. All utilities were checked because after smoke dissipated an odor of something burning remained. The MGE UPS company, Square D-electrical switching, Blackmon-Farrell Electric, city electrician, city HVAC, Cummins Northeast-Generator company - all of the above checked their associated equipment. The problem discovered was a bad HVAC unit, which led to the burning odor.

Buildout of maps is progressing nicely with a goal of going live with mapping by 1/1/05. Pictometry install nearly complete-goal to go live by 1/1/05. Applying for new funding in Round 2 of the NYS wireless money. Potential uses include remote CAD at Cobbs Hill, new photos for the Pictometry software, and replacement of the backup 911 telephones. Several security upgrades will be made to the building in the spring.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD

Ed Riley commented on the letter he sent out regarding the County apparatus numbering system. He has since received unilateral support for all county agencies to preserve the integrity of the system. He did receive a letter from a county fire department that has assured him that they will continue to use the number assigned to them and address the same over the emergency fire channels. He considers this a mute issue to this point.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Fire/EMS Communications Board is scheduled for Thursday, December 16th, 2004, 5:00 pm, at the Public Safety Training Facility in the STEP Conference Room.

Larry Mancine, Executive Secretary
Fire/EMS Communications Board